

***SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
TIPPECANOE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL
JUNE 12, 2001***

The Tippecanoe County Commissioners and Tippecanoe County Council met in a special joint session on Tuesday, June 12, 2001 at 12:30 P.M. in the Tippecanoe Room in the County Office Building. Commissioners present were: President Ruth E. Shedd, Vice President John L. Knochel, and Member KD Benson. Council members present were: President David S. Byers, Vice President Connie Basham, Margaret K. Bell, Jeffrey Kessler, Kathy Vernon, and Ronald L. Fruitt; Auditor Robert A. Plantenga, Attorney Doug Masson, Commissioners' Assistant Jennifer Weston, and Secretary Pauline E. Rohr.

President Shedd called the Commissioners' meeting to order.

President Byers called the Council meeting to order.

The purpose of today's special meeting is to hear presentations from agencies seeking funding assistance from the County in 2002. Prior to the meeting, each agency presented their request and information about their organization to the Council and Commissioners in written form. The following is a brief summary of comments by the presenters:

Midland Meals: \$15,000: Director Elaine Brovont

Midland Meals provides quality meals to economically and/or physically disadvantaged individuals for eight (8) counties including Tippecanoe. Tippecanoe County is the only county that is helping with construction costs for their new facility located on Concord Rd. The request for \$15,000 will purchase new equipment such as new freezers and coolers since the current ones do not meet the recent FDA requirement of stainless steel or polished aluminum flooring. They cannot charge for the 650 meals served per day, but do accept donations that average \$1.00 per meal. Ms Brovont said she is the primary person who searches for grants.

Crisis Center: \$6,000: Executive Director Cheryl Ubelhor

They are requesting \$6,000 to help pay for round-the-clock services they have offered to the community for over thirty (30) years. Some of those services are crisis intervention, suicide prevention, rape survivor advocacy, support groups, workshops, and information & referral. Ms Ubelhor said she applies for grants. Although United Way provides 68% of their funding, they are also supported by Tippecanoe County, the Cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette, as well as others.

Legal Aid: \$5,500: Attorney Ken Weller

This organization provides legal aid to low income individuals for family law matters. Although they are experiencing an increase in child support, juvenile, and divorce cases, their request did not increase for 2002. Mr. Weller said they receive \$57,000 from United Way, a grant from West Lafayette, and an estimated \$18,800 from the Gus Macker Basketball Tourney. They receive no support from the City of Lafayette.

Lafayette Transitional Housing: \$15,000: Executive Director Jennifer Layton

They are requesting \$15,000 to help with operating expenses for two transitional housing programs. One is for families with children and the other is for single men and women. They also operate Lincoln Center, a central point of entry for homeless services. In addition to HUD, Tippecanoe County, the Cities of West Lafayette and Lafayette, they receive 30% of their funding from United Way. Ms Layton said searching for grants and developing fund raisers is her responsibility. She lacks staff to help with the search but said the State helps with who to contact for grants.

4-H Exhibit: \$15,000: President David Swank

The request for \$15,000 is to pay for basic operating costs of the program. The 4-H Fair will be extended one (1) day this year to raise additional revenue. They received a \$3,000 grant from Eli Lilly and services from others, but they would like to set up their own Foundation for long-term planning. Although previously denied, Mr. Swank said they plan to apply to the United Way for funding.

Senior Center: \$7,000: Helen Dillon

The request for the Senior Center is \$4,000 and the request for SHARP is \$3,000. The increased request for SHARP is due to an increase in the number of requests from the elderly and disabled for home repairs. The Senior Center also provides Care-A-Van service by contract with the Villa to transport residents at a cost of \$8.00 for a one-way trip. Ms Dillon applies for grants and they currently receive grants from Tipmont REMC, Community Foundation, and SIA Foundation. She said a Grant Clearing House would provide helpful information about where to apply for grants, but this is a service they cannot afford.

Historical Association: \$15,000: Director Kevin O'Brien

As caretaker of the County's official records dating back to 1810, the Historical Association will also use the requested funds for operating expenses at their four museum sites. Mr. O'Brien said Tippecanoe County's appropriation is low compared to other counties. Of the estimated 90,000 people they serve annually; Mr. O'Brien 55,000 will attend the Feast of the Hunter's Moon. Since they have achieved some financial stability, they have a ten year plan for a new facility at Fort Ouiatenon, improvements at the Battlefield Museum, and improvements to the Fowler House.

Group Homes: \$30,000: Director Jane Dobbins

The request for \$30,000 is to pay operating costs for the four Group Homes that handle juveniles primarily from Tippecanoe County that have been placed by the Juvenile Court or DFC. Dealing with more severe problems than in the past has caused staff increases. Group Homes participates in several Federal programs such as IV-E that reimburses the County 100% of the cost of the care for eligible juveniles. The current per diem is \$118.00. Although they are not a United Way Agency, Group Homes receives some United Way Venture Grants. As a participant in the National School Lunch Program, they receive money for meals.

⇒ Councilmember Jeffrey Kemper entered the meeting.

Food Finders: \$4,800: Rachel Chosnek

Their request is \$800 higher than the amount received last year because of increased transportation costs due to higher fuel costs. Using their own semis, they sometimes travel to different states for various products. Food Finders serves 23 counties but nearly half of the products are distributed to Tippecanoe County's 79 agencies. Donations accounted for 73% of those products distributed. Food Finders only deals with individuals during the baked goods give-away that takes place at several locations. They receive funding from the City of West Lafayette, FEMA, Community Foundation, and four (4) United Ways. Ms Chosnek said they are fairly self-supporting because of the handling fee that averages \$0.10 per pound and covers 45% of their expenses. They distributed 2.2 million pounds of food/non-food products last year and operated on a \$360,000 budget.

YWCA/DVIPP: \$10,470: YWCA Executive Director Cindy Swagyr and Director of Domestic Violence Program Janet Wang

The YWCA/Domestic Violence Program provides emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence and is the only program of this type operating in a seven (7) county area. Heavily supported by grants, they are supported from 15 to 16 revenue streams. They receive \$120,000 of their \$400,000 total budget from United Way. The established per diem is \$32.00. They offer services for walk-in clientele who need protective orders. The courts mandate many people to their programs and they also offer classes for anger management for convicted men and teens.

The request of \$10,470 is to pay salaries and benefits for the Case Manager and Shelter Night manager. The Case Manager works intensively with the women on their goals and helps with resources to achieve them. The Night Manager, the only person on duty from 11:00 P.M. until 7:00 A.M., works to situate the client upon arrival. Approximately 73% of their clients have an income of \$0.00 to \$5,000.

Wabash River Parkway Commission: \$10,000: President N. A. (Lucky) Neiburger

In Mr. Neiburger's opinion, the Wabash River is vital to our County Parks program. He said the State Commission will help find funding for river projects but will not write the grants, and the Wabash River Commission does not have the time. The requested funds will be used to promote projects in the Wabash Corridor and to secure grants for other projects in the Corridor.

Vision 2020: \$15,000: Co-Chairman Jim Bodenmiller

The \$15,000 request will pay for staffing and costs to implement the Strategic Plan for Tippecanoe County that was developed by hundreds of community members. Vision 2020 is in the process of

entering into a joint venture relationship with the Chamber of Commerce and the Community Foundation. The Steering Committee is comprised of volunteers.

Soil and Water Conservation District: \$35,000: Board Chairperson Kathy Dale

The District, responsible for soil and water conservation programs within its county boundaries, is governed by a board of five local supervisors. They are requesting \$35,000 for operating expenses. Salaries and benefits are in the Commissioners’ Budget.

Greater Lafayette Progress: \$35,000: President Mike Brooks

As Tippecanoe County’s primary source for economic development, Greater Lafayette Progress is requesting \$35,000 to fund a staffing need to recruit technology based businesses. They receive approximately \$60,000 of their \$600,000 budget from the Cities of Lafayette and West Lafayette, Tippecanoe and Benton Counties. Because they are losing \$60,000 of funding on July 1, 2001 from Indiana Business Modernization and Technology Corp, their Manufacturing Assistance Service program is in jeopardy.

Sister City: \$300

No request was submitted but President Shedd reported that Sister City is requesting \$300 to cover their mailing costs.

Councilmember Kessler asked the Commissioners to consider creating a Grant Administrator Position for 2002. President Shedd responded that this position is already under consideration.

COMMISSIONERS ADJOURNED

Commissioner Knochel moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Benson; motion carried.

COUNCIL RECESSED

The Council recessed until 2:00 P.M.

Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor

TIPPECANOE COUNTY COUNCIL

David S. Byers, President

Ronald L. Fruitt

Connie Basham, Vice President

Jeffrey A. Kemper

Margaret K. Bell

Jeffrey Kessler

Attest: _____
Robert A. Plantenga, Auditor

Kathy Vernon